

MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 9

THE

# Shadow

YEAR ONE





# THE Shadow YEAR ONE



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MATT WAGNER

DYNAMITE 9

# THE Shadow

## YEAR ONE

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# THE Shadow YEAR ONE

WRITTEN BY

**MATT WAGNER**

ART BY

**WILFREDO TORRES**

COLORS BY

**BRENNAN WAGNER**

LETTERS BY

**SIMON BOWLAND**

COVERS BY

**MATT WAGNER (A)**

**ALEX ROSS (B)**

**CHRIS SAMNEE (C)**

**HOWARD CHAYKIN (D)**

SPECIAL THANKS TO

**JERRY BIRENZ, ANTHONY TOLLIN, AND MICHAEL USLAN**

THE SHADOW CREATED BY  
**WALTER B. GIBSON**

SEE THE LAST PAGE FOR ALL VARIANT COVERS

**DYNAMITE**®

Nick Barrucci, CEO / Publisher  
Juan Collado, President / COO  
Rich Young, Director Business Development  
Keith Davidson, Marketing Manager

Joe Rybandt, Senior Editor  
Hannah Gorlinski, Associate Editor  
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TO MOST NEW YORKERS,  
*CHINATOWN* MIGHT AS  
WELL HAVE BEEN  
LOCATED ON THE MOON.

ASIDE FROM RESTAURANTS AND  
LAUNDRIES, CAUCASIAN PEOPLE HAD  
LITTLE OR NO EXPOSURE TO THIS  
MYSTERIOUS CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY.

MYSELF INCLUDED.

MY ORDERS WERE TO  
EXPLORE THE STREET LIFE,  
SPEAK TO THE LOCALS AND  
GET A LAY-OF-THE-LAND.

...BUT, I'M  
LOOKING FOR A  
NEW LAUNDRY  
SERVICE! CAN'T  
YOU JUST...?

NO, NO! NO  
NEW BUSINESS!  
NO NEW  
CUSTOMER!

YOU GO...  
NO COME BACK!  
YOU GO NOW!

UNFORTUNATELY...

...THAT TASK WAS PROVING EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

WHO EVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING?! A SHOP THAT WON'T TAKE NEW CUSTOMERS?!

SOMETHING'S CLEARLY WRONG—JUST AS LAMONT SUSPECTED!

'SCUSE, MISS. YOU SEEK LAUNDRY? YOU NEED SERVICE, YES?

WHY... YES! YOU KNOW OF A SHOP THAT'S OPEN TO...FOLKS LIKE ME!!

YES, YES! VERY GOOD! VERY CLEAN! VERY FAST!

CAN YOU...SHOW ME? I'D, UH... LOVE TO TALK TO THE OWNER!

YES, YES! I TAKE YOU THERE! PLEASE TO FOLLOW, HONORABLE MISS... **THIS WAY!**

MUST HURRY! CHOP-CHOP!

THROUGH... THERE'S UH, VERY WELL...

IN TYPICAL FASHION...

...HE CHOSE A MORE  
CLANDESTINE APPROACH.

OH! I—

HONESTLY, MARGO...  
FOLLOWING A  
STRANGER DOWN  
AN ALLEYWAY?

HARDLY THE  
MOST CAUTIOUS  
PLAN OF ACTION!

WELL, I...KNEW  
SOMETHING WAS UP.  
AND MY DERRINGER'S  
MORE THAN READY!

I MEAN...  
REALLY, LAMONT!  
"CHOP-CHOP"??

BUT MY SUSPICIONS  
WERE **RIGHT!** THERE IS A  
PALPABLE **MALAISE** HERE!  
SOMETHING—OR **SOMEONE**—  
HAS INFECTED THIS AREA  
LIKE A PLAGUE.

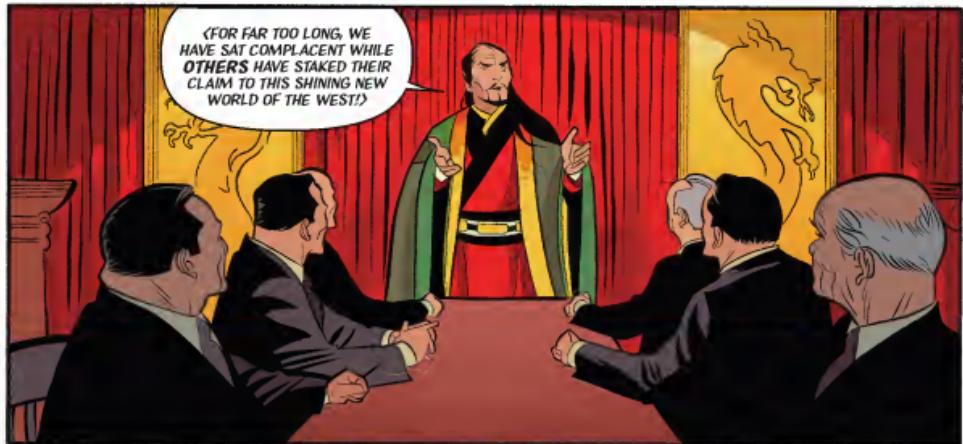
IT'S LIKE ALL OF  
CHINATOWN IS BRACING  
ITSELF FOR SOMETHING  
BIG...SOMETHING  
TERRIBLE.

I KNOW! MY  
RECEPTION AT EVEN **WELL  
KNOWN** BUSINESSES HAS  
BEEN, WELL... "CHILLY"  
DOESN'T EVEN **BEGIN** TO  
DESCRIBE IT!

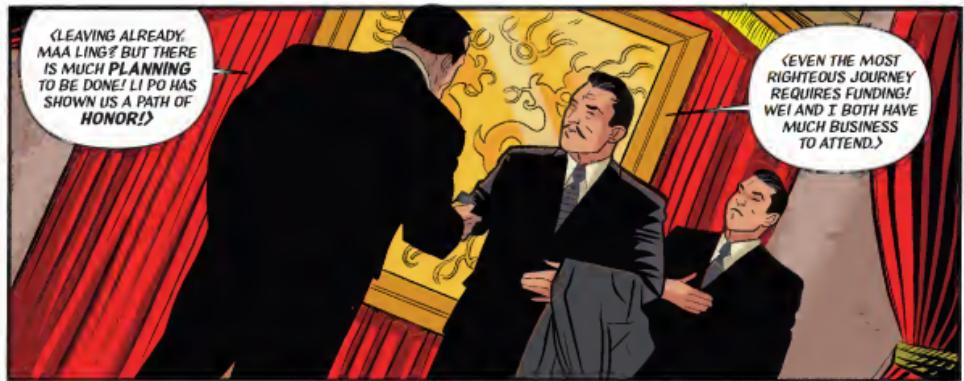
A CARICATURE  
MEANT ONLY  
TO DECEIVE WESTERN  
BIAS. I ASSURE YOU,  
BOTH MY MANDARIN  
AND CANTONESE ARE  
FLAWLESS!

KEEP SCRATCHING  
AT THE SURFACE,  
MARGO.  
MEANWHILE...









# RING RING RING \*







FOR THE MOMENT  
AT LEAST...DISASTER  
HAS BEEN AVERTED.

BUT THIS  
SITUATION  
CANNOT BE  
ALLOWED TO  
FESTER.

DR. ZORN IS  
SURELY HIDDEN INSIDE THE  
TONG HEADQUARTERS...A  
MILESTONE OF THIS INSULAR  
CULTURE. HIS MALEVOLENT  
POWERS WILL BE  
POTENT THERE.

ZHAO LI PO'S  
HOUSE WILL BE HEAVILY  
GUARDED AND PERHAPS  
BOOBY-TRAPPED. THIS  
IS A DANGEROUS  
GAME.

WHAT ARE MY  
ORDERS?



IF I SHOULD FAIL,  
YOU MUST REPORT TO  
THE POLICE AND DEVISE  
A STORY THAT WILL  
INDUCE A RAID.

SADLY, THE  
TESTIMONY OF A  
WHITE WOMAN WILL  
GARNER FAR MORE  
ATTENTION THAN  
ANY COMPLAINT  
STANLEY MIGHT  
LODGE.

WELL...LET'S  
JUST HOPE IT  
DON'TS COME  
TO THAT!



THESE PEOPLE  
MUST BE FREED FROM  
THE YOKE OF ZORN'S  
FOUL DOMINION...  
BEFORE FURTHER  
TRAGEDY ENSUES!

STAND READY...AS  
**THE SHADOW**  
STRIKES!



DESPITE ALL I'VE WITNESSED,  
EVERY EXAMPLE OF HIS FEARLESS  
AND DEDICATED HEROISM...

I STILL WANT TO HOLD  
HIM TIGHTLY IN MY GRASP  
EVERY TIME HE STEPS  
OUT INTO THE DARK AND  
DEADLY NIGHT.













I COME  
TO PURGE YOUR  
FETID INFLUENCE,  
**GERHARD  
ZORN.**



AND WIPE  
CLEAN THE BLOODY  
TRAIL OF YOUR  
TREACHERY!



I WAS ONCE LIKE  
YOU...ENRAPTURED BY  
A CAUSE, SPURRED BY A  
BELIEF! BUT MY SERVICE  
TO THE KAISER LEFT  
ME ONLY BROKEN  
AND ALONE!



FINALLY, I  
REALIZED...SALVATION LAY  
NOT IN THE SO-CALLED  
"ENLIGHTENMENT" OF YOUR  
PRECIOUS TULKUS AND  
MONKS...BUT IN WAR--  
THE VERY CHAOS THAT  
HAD BIRTHED ME!

I LIVE NOW...  
ONLY TO WEAVE  
ITS SWEET  
DESOLATION.

MISERY,  
YOU SEE...IS MY  
REDEMPTION!



ONLY DEATH  
CAN ABSOLVE  
YOUR MANY SINS,  
**"SNOW TIGER!"**





GGHH--!

AEIGH!

ONLY THE MEMORY  
OF THE HOLY MYSTICS  
YOU MURDERED...  
ACCOUNTS FOR THE  
MERCY I OFFER YOU  
NOW—SURRENDER!

FACE WESTERN  
JUSTICE AND LIVE TO  
SEE TOMORROW!

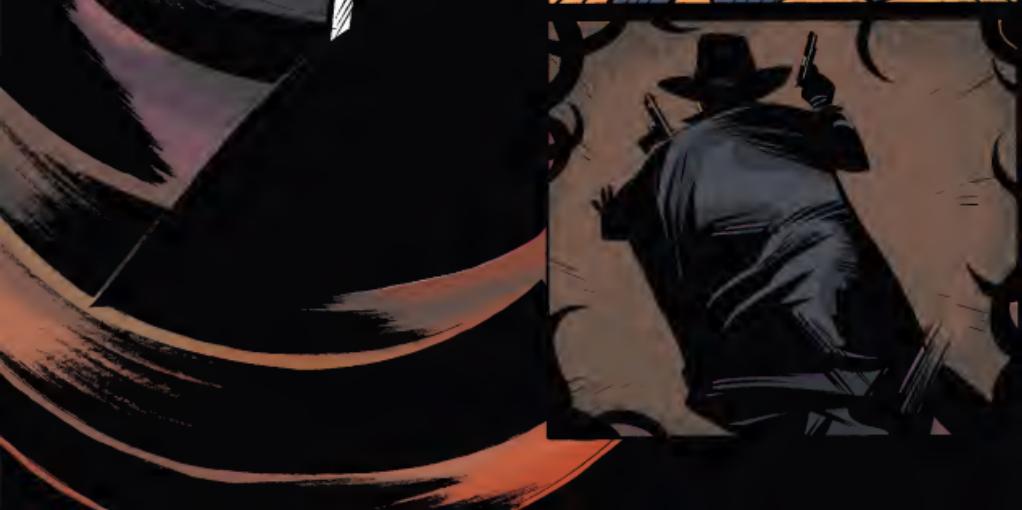
I NEVER ASKED FOR YOUR  
PITY, YING KO, AND I SAY WE ARE  
BROTHERS AT HEART. LOOK HOW  
EASILY YOU DISPENSE DEATH...WHEN  
IT SUITS YOUR WHIMS!

BUT, IF YOU  
WON'T JOIN ME...THEN  
COME, YOU INSIPID  
FOOL.

TAKE ME IF  
YOU DARE!

SO THEN...  
BY YOUR OWN  
VOLITION—

KLK



VOLITION,  
MY FRIEND...IS  
A TREACHEROUS  
THING.

IN THE END, ONE'S  
EVERY DECISION...  
MAY COME BACK  
TO BITE YOU!!

to be concluded

# DYNAMITE®

## IN THE NEWS - MAY 2014

DYNAMITE ANNOUNCES  
BLOOD QUEEN, A NEW  
DARK FANTASY EPIC  
DEBUTING IN JUNE



Dynamite Entertainment proudly announces the upcoming June release of *Blood Queen* #1, the first issue of an ongoing dark fantasy comic book series by the creative team of writer Troy Brownfield and artist Fritz Casas. To commemorate the launch, Dynamite has commissioned artists Jay Anacleto, Ale Garza, and Sergio Fernandez Davila to provide the series' captivating cover artwork.

"I'm really excited to be working on *Blood Queen* for Dynamite," says Troy Brownfield, perhaps best known for his fantasy work on *Grimm Fairy Tales*. "I've always liked books that pull together different genres and manage to work on a few levels, and that's definitely something that we're doing here. We've got the horror element, the fantasy element, and we have medieval drama and all that entails. That means knights, witches, monsters, warring kingdoms, star-crossed lovers, betrayal, and loads of secrets. Or, as I like to call it: a great time."

Set against the fairytale backdrop of knights and magic, *Blood Queen* begins with the heartbreakingly plighted of a royal child, teetering between life and death. Summoned to save the princess, a young woman of untold power begins a journey that will uncover secrets, reveal forbidden desires, and stoke the fires of war. Inspired by the notorious true story of the Countess Elizabeth Bathory, *Blood Queen* imagines the Renaissance era as a colorful nightmare of mayhem, lust, and sorcery.

"In terms of characters, one of the central issues is the idea, 'How are the evil queens of fairy tales made?'" says Brownfield. "It's less a deconstruction like *Wicked* and more of a look at what could make a fundamentally good person go bad. Then again, that's not to say that it's always going to be the person that you expect, and it's not going to happen in the ways that you think you'll see coming. We want to deliver twists, turns and shocks. We'll also deal with questions of power: who has it, who earns it, who takes it, and why."

Writer Troy Brownfield has a lengthy history as a comic book writer, journalist, and college professor. He began working in comics

on the journalism side, founding ShotgunReviews.com and notably contributing to Newsarama, The Pulse, Newtype USA magazine, and more. He was Associate Editor for Fangoria Comics and The Scream Factory. In addition to creating the webcomics *Sparkshooter* (with art by Sarah Vaughn) and *Solo Acoustic* at Sparkshooter.com, Troy has written for the likes of DC Comics, Dynamite, and Zenescope, where he was the regular writer on *Grimm Fairy Tales: Myths & Legends* from 2012-2013. *Blood Queen* is his first ongoing series for Dynamite.

Fritz Casas, the artist of *Blood Queen*, has contributed extensively to the Dynamite line in recent years, depicting dynamic, gorgeous female characters in such titles as *Miss Fury*, *Red Sonja: Berserker*, *Kirby: Genesis*, *Dragonsbane*, and *Queen Sonja*. "Fritz Casas is doing amazing work," says Brownfield. "It looks incredible."

"Troy's writing is fresh and brings a great take on the character," States Dynamite Publisher Nick Barrucci. "Troy's first project for us was a *Buck Rogers* Annual he wrote years ago, which was nominated for an Eagle Award. I can't say express how pleased I am that we are finally able to work on a new project together. Fans will be amazed by *Blood Queen*."

Cover artwork for *Blood Queen* will be provided by Jay Anacleto (*Warlord of Mars*, *Red Sonja*) and Ale Garza (*Deadpool*, *Teen Titans*), while Sergio Fernandez Davila (*Legenderry: A Steampunk Adventure*) has created a Retailer Exclusive Variant image that can be tailored to promote individual comic shops.

*Blood Queen* #1 will be solicited in Diamond Comic Distributors' March Previews catalog, the premiere source of merchandise for the comic book specialty market, and slated for release in June 2014. Comic book fans are encouraged to reserve copies of *Blood Queen* with their local comic book retailers. *Blood Queen* will also be available for individual customer purchase through digital platforms courtesy of Comixology, iVerse, and Dark Horse Digital.



## NEXT ISSUE:



### ISSUE #10

SPECIAL EXTRA-SIZED FINALE ISSUE!!!! 30 pages of story and art! Join Eisner Award-winning artist Matt Wagner and the art team of Wilfredo Torres and Brennan Wagner for the pulse-pounding conclusion to this landmark series. Excitement fills the night as The Shadow finally faces off with his long-time nemesis, Dr. Zorn, a psychic villain whose powers and training rival those of the Night Master himself! Will Lamont Cranston's dark-cloaked alter-ego find the strength to defeat the vile and consumptive Zorn? Will Margo Lane fall to the flying bullets and psychic traps of The Shadow's enemy? And will the Reporter finally manage to unmask the mystery behind New York's crusader for justice? New readers and longtime Shadows fans alike will thrill as all is finally revealed as The Shadow's fledgling adventures against crime draw to a close...and his longtime crusade truly begins!

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# DYNAMITE DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE CONTENT!

A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9  
FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART  
TO BRENNAN WAGNER'S COLORS

## PAGE ONE

1) SPLASH PANEL—of Margo Lane walking down a Chinatown street; she is the only white face to be seen and many of the locals give her suspicious glances.

CAPTION: TO MOST NEW YORKERS, CHINATOWN MIGHT AS WELL HAVE BEEN LOCATED ON THE MOON.

ASIDE FROM RESTAURANTS AND LAUNDRIES, CAUCASIAN PEOPLE HAD LITTLE OR NO EXPOSURE TO THIS MYSTERIOUS CITY-WITHIN-A-CITY.

MYSELF INCLUDED.

MY ORDERS WERE TO EXPLORE THE STREET LIFE, SPEAK TO THE LOCALS AND GET A LAY-OF-THE-LAND.

2) INSIDE—a laundry, she argues with the woman behind the counter.

MARGO: ...BUT, I'M LOOKING FOR A NEW LAUNDRY SERVICE! CAN'T YOU JUST—?

WOMAN: NO, NO! NO NEW BUSINESS! NO NEW CUSTOMER!

YOU GO...NO COME BACK! YOU GO NOW!

CAPTION: UNFORTUNATELY...



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## PAGE TWO

1) FRUSTRATED—she leaves the laundry, not noticing a Chinese man who lingers at the corner of the building; he is somewhat non-descript with a thin droopy mustache, standing a bit hunched over and wearing a dark Asia-style jacket/tunic and a pork-pie hat.

CAPTION: ...THAT TASK WAS PROVING EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

MARGO: WHO EVER HEARD OF SUCH A THING?! A SHOP THAT WON'T TAKE NEW CUSTOMERS?!

SOMETHING'S CLEARLY WRONG—JUST AS LAMONT SUSPECTED!

2) SHE'S SURPRISED—as the man speaks to her in broken English.

MAN: 'SCUSE, MISS. YOU SEEK LAUNDRY? YOU NEED SERVICE, YES?

MARGO: WHY...YES! YOU KNOW OF A SHOP THAT'S OPEN TO...FOLKS LIKE ME?!

3) HE BOWS—as Margo steps closer, questioning him.

MAN: YES, YES! VERY GOOD! VERY CLEAN! VERY FAST!

MARGO: CAN YOU...SHOW ME? I'D, UH...LOVE TO TALK TO THE OWNER!

4) HE MOTIONS—for her to follow him into an alley; glancing over her shoulder, she follows him.

MAN: YES, YES! I TAKE YOU THERE! PLEASE TO FOLLOW, HONORABLE MISS...THIS WAY!

MUST HURRY! CHOP-CHOP!

MARGO: THROUGH...THERE? UH, VERY WELL...

CAPTION: IN TYPICAL FASHION...



# DYNAMITE DIGITAL EXCLUSIVE CONTENT!

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## PAGE THREE

1) EYES WIDE—Margo is shocked to hear a familiar voice coming from the man.

CAPTION: ...HE CHOSE A MORE CLANDESTINE APPROACH.

MAN: HONESTLY, MARGO...FOLLOWING A STRANGER DOWN  
[Off-panel] AN ALLEYWAY?

MARGO: OH! I—

2) NOW STANDING TALL—and holding his hat in one hand, the Chinese man identifies himself as Cranston in disguise as Margo quickly regains her poise.

CRANSTON: HARDLY THE MOST CAUTIOUS PLAN OF ACTION!

MARGO: WELL, I...KNEW SOMETHING WAS UP. AND MY DERRINGER'S MORE THAN READY!

I MEAN...REALLY, LAMONT! "CHOP-CHOP"!?

CRANSTON: A CARICATURE MEANT ONLY TO DECEIVE WESTERN BIAS. I ASSURE YOU, BOTH MY MANDARIN AND CANTONESE ARE FLAWLESS!

3) HE TELLS—Margo of what he has learned whilst undercover.

CRANSTON: BUT MY SUSPICIONS WERE RIGHT! THERE IS A PALPABLE MALAISE HERE! SOMETHING—OR SOMEONE—HAS INFECTED THIS AREA LIKE A PLAGUE.

MARGO: I KNOW! MY RECEPTION AT EVEN WELL KNOWN BUSINESSES HAS BEEN, WELL... "CHILLY" DOESN'T EVEN BEGIN TO DESCRIBE IT!

4) RESUMING—his disguise, he gives Margo her instructions as he heads back towards the street.

CRANSTON: IT'S LIKE ALL OF CHINATOWN IS BRACING ITSELF FOR SOMETHING BIG...SOMETHING TERRIBLE.

KEEP SCRATCHING AT THE SURFACE, MARGO. MEANWHILE...



A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE SHADOW YEAR ONE #9  
FROM MATT WAGNER'S SCRIPT TO WILFREDO TORRES LINE ART  
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PAGE FOUR

1) CUT TO—the interior of a Chinese restaurant; two Asian men sit at a table and smoke cigarettes as a waitress serves them tea. Both men are in their 40s and dressed in western suits. Each man has a bodyguard who stands to the side.

VOICE-OVER: "I'LL DIG DEEPER—INTO THE UNDERWORLD!"

LING: < THIS SITUATION STINKS. WEI! >

WEI: < YOU'RE TELLING ME?! MY SHOP OWNERS ARE SCARED TO DEATH! EVEN THE GAMBLING AND OPIUM DENS ARE DOWN TO HALF THEIR NORMAL TAKE! >

2) THEY DISCUSS—the latest developments inside the Hip Sing Tong; their leader seems bent on waging war with the city's Caucasian mobs (sound familiar?).

LING: < THE HIP SING TONG HAS OPERATED PEACEFULLY WITH THE WESTERN MOBS FOR YEARS!!

< WHY THE HELL DOES ZHAO LI PO HAVE TO STIR UP TROUBLE NOW?! >

WEI: <EASY LING LI PO IS TONG LEADER WE MUST OBEY HIS ORDERS>

3) BOTH OF THEM—voice their anxieties over such a move.

JING: <YES...BUT WAGING WAR WITH THE ITALIANS IS MADNESS!

## <AND MAD LEADERS... MUST SOMETIMES BE REPLACED>

WEI: <PHEH! CAREFUL. MY FRIEND. SUCH TALK IS DANGEROUS. >

4) AS THEY LEAVE—the restaurant, a non-descript Chinese man in a dark tunic and pork-pie hat stands nearby.

WEI: < LI PO HAS EARS EVERYWHERE! LET US WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE SAYS AT TONIGHT'S MEETING. >

LING: < I FEAR THE WORST, WEI. HE SEEMS...NOT HIMSELF. >

